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is largely a matter of the institution of property and contract and, the writer concludes, "we cannot make much progress until we have adopted the social theory of property and the social theory of contract."

The World Decision. By ROBERT HERRICK. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1916. 8vo, pp. 253. \$1.25.

This recent addition to the literature of the present war may be described as a study in race psychology and national ideals. The author spent the greater part of last year in Italy and France, and has made a keen study of the attitudes of the Latin peoples. In his interpretation of the present struggle he is not concerned with the material or economic phases which have been so much emphasized by other writers. His interest lies rather in the ideals and impulses of which commercial rivalry or military operations are but the outward manifestations. To him the war appears as a conflict of ideals, a struggle between two opposed traditions of civilization. In this world-clash the significant thing is the "spiritual antagonism between the Latin and the German, between the two visions of the world which the German and the Latin imagine and seek to perpetuate" (p. 5). The fact that the Latin forces engaged possess less than half of the strength of the allied powers does not alter the author's firm conviction that the question at issue is whether the Latin or the German ideal shall dominate and assume the mental and spiritual leadership of the world.

Mr. Herrick has no patience with those who would condemn all wars as brutal, needless, or insane. While admitting all the horror and suffering which war involves, he maintains that circumstances may arise, and do arise, when the "pale concept of internationalism" cannot be expected to restrain the passion of patriotism. On the greater issues of life there is no possible neutrality, and patriotism is simply belief in an ideal. "Patriotism is the better part of man, his ideal of life woven in with his tissue. Men have always fought for these things—for their own earth, for their own kind, for their own ideal—and they will continue to give their blood for them as long as they are men, until wrong and unreason and aggression are effaced from the earth" (p. 95).

The National Budget System. By CHARLES WALLACE COLLINS. New York: Macmillan, 1917. 8vo, pp. vi+151. \$1.25.

The author has attempted to present in this small volume a "simple and direct description of the budget system and its relation to our government suitable to be put into the hands of the layman." In the opinion of the reviewer the attempt has been successful.

After a brief review of the preparation, ratification, execution, and audit and control of the budget in Great Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland, and

Japan, Mr. Collins sets forth in an interesting and accurate way the methods employed by our federal government. These methods are then criticized and the executive budget proposed as a substitute for them. He proposes "the preparation and submission to Congress by the President of an itemized program for the government for the coming fiscal year; the ratification of this program by Congress, without amendments increasing it on the basis of the principle of executive responsibility; the spending of the money by the executive; the audit of the accounts by some agency independent of the executive but reporting to Congress, and the approval of the accounts by Congress." In chap. xi, entitled "Constitutional and Legal Questions Involved," he indicates in detail how the necessary changes might be made without amendment of the Constitution. On the whole the argument presented is excellent, but some of the difficulties which would be involved under our present system of federal government are passed over with slight or no consideration.

The Issue. By J. W. HEADLAM. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1917. 12mo, pp. vii+159. \$1.00.

This book is really an answer to German accusations that it is England who, by her immoderate demands, is barring the way to peace in Europe—a peace which Germany offers and has a number of times suggested. The attempt is made to prove that the real issue of the war is German desire to dominate all Europe. To establish his point, Mr. Headlam uses statements of German origin to show the basic reason why all suggestions for peace that have come from authoritative German sources are quite unacceptable. The sources used are the manifesto of the six industrial associations and that of the German professors, statements of the different party leaders, utterances of the Chancellor, and the written works of Prince von Bülow and Friedrich Naumann.

Germany cannot shift upon any other nation the blame of starting the war, says Mr. Headlam; for she deliberately defied the political custom of Europe by refusing "to allow the other powers to be consulted in a matter which had always been held to be a common European concern"—a conflict of interests between two powers. Therefore, there can be no lasting peace before Germany has changed her attitude and realizes that no one nation can hope to carry out her will against the united opposition of practically the whole of Europe. But peace will come "when Germany has learnt the lesson of the war, when it has found, as every other nation has had to learn, that the voice of Europe cannot be defied with impunity."

The Minimum Cost of Living. By WINIFRED STUART GIBBS. New York: Macmillan, 1917.

This study varies from other investigations of the cost of living in families of limited income in New York City in that the principles of scientific budget-making have been applied to the household expenditures. It therefore not